

Monticello FO Planning Website

Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs) Monticello Field Office January 2006

The evaluation process for considering the establishment of ACECs, as defined under ACEC guidelines established June, 1980, regulations at 43 CFR 1610.7-2, and BLM's 1613 manual, involves a BLM interdisciplinary team reviewing all existing ACECs, as well as reviewing internally and externally nominated areas to determine if relevant and important values exist. As a result of such review, 12 potential ACECs have been identified by the Monticello Field Office, which will be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Monticello Resource Management Plan. They are listed in the following table, which also indicates the relevant and important values as determined by the interdisciplinary team.

Potential ACEC	Number of Acres	Relevant and Important Values
Alkali Ridge	39,196	Cultural
Bridger Jack Mesa	6,225	Near-relict vegetation
Butler Wash North	17,365	Scenic
Cedar Mesa	306,742	Cultural
Dark Canyon	61,660	Scenic, Wildlife
Hovenweep	2,412	Cultural
Indian Creek	8,510	Scenic
Lavender Mesa	649	Relict vegetation
Lockhart Basin	47,783	Scenic
Shay Canyon	119	Cultural
San Juan River	6,365	Scenic, Cultural, Wildlife, Natural System
Valley of the Gods	22,863	Scenic
Total	519,886	

A range of alternatives will be presented in the DEIS. All potential ACECs would be designated in one alternative, none would be designated in one alternative, and some would be designated in another alternative. Thus, the DEIS analysis will evaluate the impacts that would result from ACECs- designation (and the special management attention that would be applied) and from non-designation (and other management that would be applied in keeping with the goals of the alternative).